

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the title on page 1, lines 5-7 with the following amended title:

CONJUGATED ~~ALIPHATIC~~ ALIPHATIC DIALDEHYDE
DISINFECTING AND STERILIZING COMPOSITIONS
AND METHODS OF USING THE SAME

Please replace the paragraph on page 2, lines 3-4 with the following amended paragraph:

Conjugated ~~aliphatic~~ aliphatic dialdehyde disinfecting and sterilizing compositions and methods of using same.

Please replace the paragraph on page 2, lines 9-12 with the following amended paragraph:

This invention relates to acid stable, sterilizing and high level disinfecting compositions which contain water-soluble conjugated ~~aliphatic~~ aliphatic dialdehyde as the active ingredient, and to the use of such compositions to disinfect or sterilize a product in need of such treatment.

Please replace the paragraph on page 2, lines 22-24 with the following amended paragraph:

Gordon, Ezzell, Bruckner and Ascenzi in J of Industrial Microbiology, 13, pp 77-82 (1994) disclose the synergistic effect of selected conjugated ~~aliphatic~~ aliphatic and aromatic monoaldehydes to enhance the tuberculocidal activity of glutaraldehyde.

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, lines 5-13 with the following amended paragraph:

The high level disinfecting compounds of the present invention comprise aqueous solutions having pH less than 7, and which have a concentration of water-soluble conjugated ~~aliphatic~~ aliphatic dialdehyde, preferably 2-butenedial, effective to achieve a high level disinfection as determined by the ability of said composition to kill bacterial cells, as exemplified by *Mycobacterium bovis* BCG, in contact with said composition within 30 minutes at 20⁰C. One method of the invention comprises a method for disinfecting a surface by immersing said surface in said high level disinfecting composition for a period of time and temperature effective to achieve high level disinfection of said surface.

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, lines 14-22 with the following amended paragraph:

The sterilizing compositions of the invention comprise aqueous solutions having pH less than 7, and which have a concentration of at least the conjugated ~~aliphatic~~ aliphatic dialdehyde effective to achieve sterilization as determined by the ability of said composition to kill all bacterial spores, exemplified by those of *Bacillus subtilis* and *Clostridium sporogenes*, in contact with said compositions within 24 hours at 20⁰C. Another method of the invention comprises a method for sterilizing a surface by

immersing said surface in said high level sterilizing composition for a period of time and temperature effective to achieve high level sterilization of said surface.

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, lines 14-22 with the following amended paragraph:

While any conjugated ~~aliphatic~~ aliphatic dialdehyde having biocidal activity can be used, it is preferable to use those having less than 8 carbons atoms and at least one ~~aliphatic~~ aliphatic group adjacent to a double bond, most preferably 2-Butenedial and the invention will be further described in connection therewith.